

CHILD POVERTY: Counting the Uncounted

Sharmila Kurukulasuriya

October 9, 2017

Take-homes

1. Child poverty should not happen
2. Child poverty can be irreversible/inter-generational
3. Child poverty is distinct from adult poverty
4. Child poverty is linked to income poverty
5. Child poverty is multidimensional and complex



What is Child Poverty?

The violation of children's rights...

*“Children living in poverty experience deprivation of the **material, spiritual and emotional** resources needed to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society.”*

(State of the World's Children, 2005)

Why does Child Poverty matter?



GLOBAL: By 2030



CHINA: By 2020



POLITICAL WILL

- Global and National Commitment
- However....children in China are over-represented among the 70 million people living in extreme poverty

Globally, how many children experience poverty?

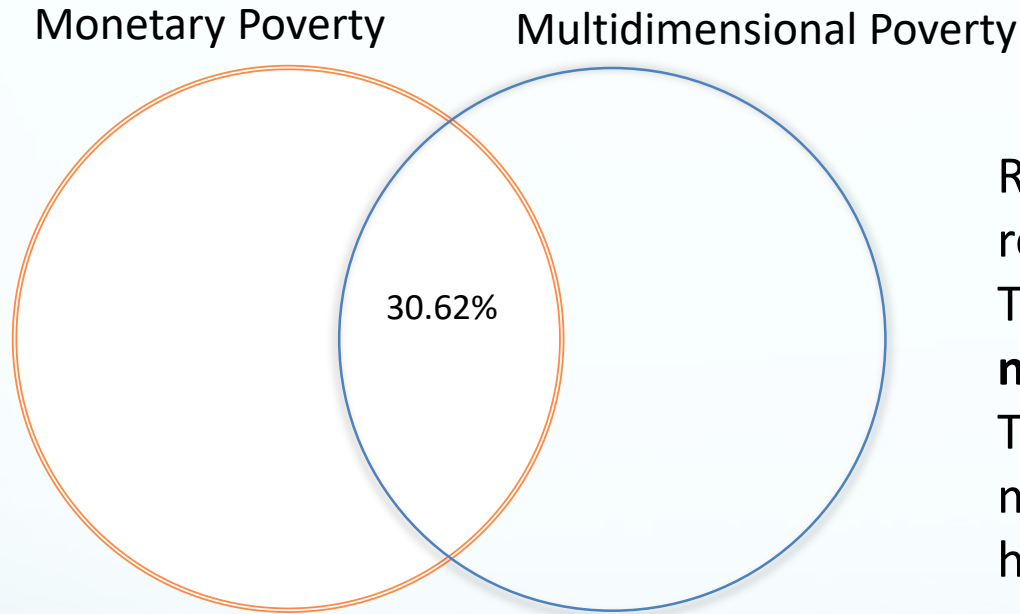
Monetary

- 2016 World Bank/UNICEF study – *Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children*
- 385 million children living in extreme poverty
- Children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty
- Youngest children are the most at risk
- Based on data from 89 countries (83% of the developing world's population)

Multidimensional

- 2017 OPHI study – *Children's Multidimensional Poverty: Disaggregating the global MPI*
- 689 million children are living in multidimensional poverty
- Global MPI estimates are higher for children than adults
- Child poverty levels are highest in the fragile states
- Based on data from 103 countries

The overlap: what does it suggest?



Recent OPHI study in China revealed:
The **coincidence of monetary and non-monetary poverty is 31%**.
This suggests that 69% of multidimensional poor households are not considered poor in terms of income poverty.

Monetary child poverty

- Monetary child poverty rate, national and international poverty lines, poverty headcount
- Financial barriers to poverty
- Regional, age groups and other disaggregations
- Correlated with multidimensional indicators

LIMITATIONS:

- Does not capture children's experience of poverty (but rather monetary situation of the household)
- Does not include intra-household inequities

Multidimensional child poverty

- Multidimensional child poverty rate - MODA, MPI for children - child specific/household
- Captures children's experience of poverty
- Can identify potential drivers of poverty
- Regional, age groups and other disaggregation

LIMITATIONS:

- Stakeholders are less familiar with the concepts/methodologies
- Methodologies are less applicable in high income countries

Qualitative approaches

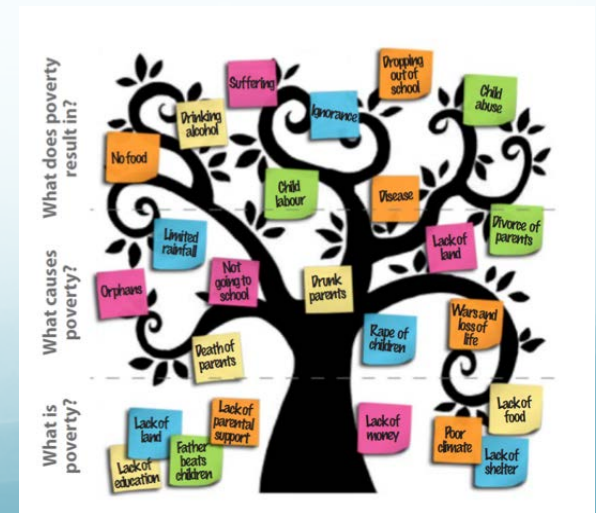


Focus on key groups missing from monetary and multidimensional measures:

- Undocumented migrant families
- Nomadic populations
- Families in conflict zones
- Children living on the street
- Child-headed households
- Trafficked children
- Children in institutional care

Tools:

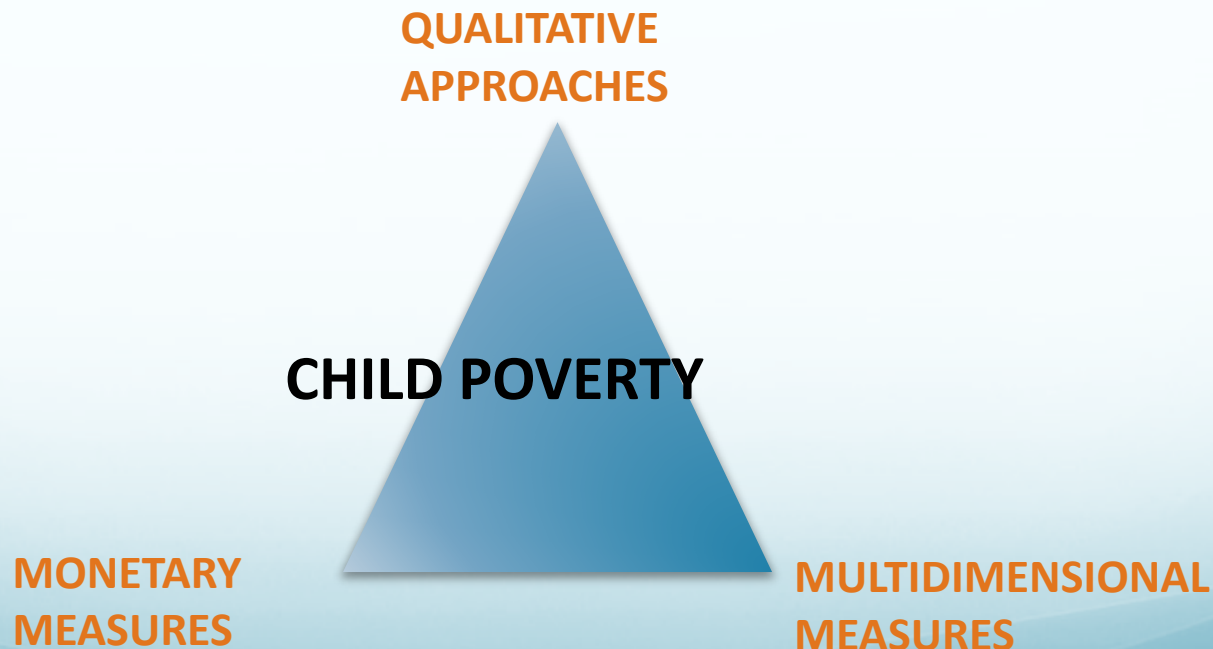
- Focus Group Discussions/Poverty tree
- Targeted surveys (Slum children)
- Qualitative surveys (life history interviews, focus group discussions)
- New technology such as satellite imagery to identify transient groups
- Young Lives Study on Childhood Poverty



Counting all Children

NEED TO TRIANGULATE

- Analysis between **monetary, multidimensional and qualitative** measures allowing for overlap
- Analysis should capture **all measureable aspects** of child poverty



Thank you

References:

- 2017 OPHI – *Children’s Multidimensional Poverty: Disaggregating the global MPI*
- 2017 UNICEF – *A World Free from Child Poverty: A Guide to the tasks to achieve the vision*
- 2016 World Bank/UNICEF – *Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children*